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Title : Need to develop Kollam as a major port of Kerala.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (QUILON): Sir, Kollam was one of the oldest ports in the west coast. History has it that Kollam is the "former emporium of Trade" and that centuries back the Arab and Chinese vessels visited this port regularly for trade. Lack of modern facilities thwarted cargo ships to ports with better berthing, communication and other technical facilities. The number of ships calling began declining and now, this port is at standstill. Many of the traditional industries based in Kollam began to die out or were shifted to major port locations. Cashew, coir and marine products industries are the worst affected. Titanium, one of the major industries of Kerala, is also located in Kollam. It is reported that the depth of the sea at the entrance is 12.5 metres and the other technical parameters are quite favourable for development of a commercial harbour which can cater to ships of 35,000 or 45,000 DWT without large investment.

In this background, there is sufficient justification for developing Kollam as one of the major ports in the country. So, I would request the Government, through you, Sir, to consider the legitimate demand of the people of Kollam in general and Kerala in particular to establish Kollam Port as one of the major ports in our country.